

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 076932

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 076932 SENT ACTION USUN NEW YORK CAIRO
INFO LONDON JERUSALEM DATED APRIL 16.

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 076932

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: BEXP, PFOR, EG, US

SUBJECT: BRIEFING OF UN ON SUEZ CANAL OPERATIONS

REF: STATE 057363

1. FOR USUN: DRAWING ON PARA 3 BELOW, YOU SHOULD BRIEF
APPROPRIATE UN OFFICIALS ON OUR PLANS FOR ASSISTING EGYPT
IN SWEEPING MINES AND CLEARING UNEXPLODED ORDNANCE FROM
SUEZ CANAL. YOU SHOULD COORDINATE YOUR BRIEFING WITH UKUN.

2. FOR CAIRO: YOU SHOULD BRIEF GENERAL SIILASVUO ALONG
SIMILAR LINES AT EARLY OPPORTUNITY. BRIEFING SHOULD BE
COORDINATED WITH BRITISH EMBASSY CAIRO.

3. TALKING POINTS FOLLOW:

A. AS ANNOUNCED BY USG ON MARCH 18, WE HAVE INFORMED
THE GOE THAT WE WILL SWEEP MINES FROM THE SUEZ CANAL AND
PROVIDE TECHNICAL ADVICE AND TRAINING ASSISTANCE REGARDING
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DISPOSAL OF OTHER UNEXPLODED ORDNANCE IN THE WATERS OF

THE CANAL AND ALONG THE BANKS. THE POSITIONING OF FORCES AND EQUIPMENT FOR THIS EFFORT HAS NOW BEGUN. THERE WILL BE US/UK COMBINED OPERATIONS UNDER US COMMAND AND OVERALL GOE CONTROL, AND CLOSE COORDINATION WILL BE CONDUCTED WITH GOE AT EVERY STAGE.

B. THE UK HAS AGREED TO (1) U.S. USE OF UK SOVEREIGN BASE AREA ON CYPRUS AS STAGING AREA FOR U.S. OPERATIONS AND

(2) TO CARRY OUT MINESWEEPING OF NORTHERN APPROACHES TO SUEZ CANAL IN PORT SAID AREA.

C. US NAVY WILL THEN CONDUCT MINESWEEPING OF CANAL ITSELF, USING HELICOPTERS OPERATING FROM USS IWO JIMA ANCHORED IN PORT SAID AREA, AND LATER FROM A SHORE BASE NEAR ISMAILIA.

D. US NAVY IS ALSO PLANNING TRAINING AND ADVISORY ASSISTANCE OF EGYPTIAN PERSONNEL IN REMOVING UNEFPLODED ORDNANCE FROM WATERS OF THE CANAL. US ARMY IS TO HAVE SIMILAR TRAINING AND ADVISORY ROLE IN ASSISTING EGYPTIAN PERSONNEL IN REMOVAL OF UNEXPLODED ORDNANCE AND LAND MINES ALONG BANKS OF CANAL.

E. WE EXPECT MINESWEEPING OPERATION WILL BEGIN IN ABOUT TWO WEEKS AND TAKE APPROXIMATELY TWO MONTHS. ENTIRE OPERATION WILL REQUIRE ABOUT ONE YEAR.

4. BOTH CAIRO AND USUN MAY DRAW ON REFTEL (BEING REPEATED TO USUN) SHOULD QUESTIONS INVOLVING MORE DETAIL ARISE DURING BRIEFING.

5. ACTION ADDRESSEES SHOULD ALSO MENTION DESIRABILITY OF ESTABLISHING LIAISON WITH UNEF HEADQUARTERS TO COORDINATE ON MATTERS WHICH MIGHT ARISE IN CONNECTION WITH CANAL OPERATION AFFECTING UNEF ACTIVITIES. MOST LOGICAL ARRANGEMENT WOULD, IN OUR VIEW, BE ON THE SPOT CONTACT IN CANAL AREA. IF LATTER ARRANGEMENT AGREEABLE TO UN HEADQUARTERS, EMBASSY CAIRO MAY PROCEED TO WORK OUT DETAILS WITH UN REPRESENTATIVES IN EGYPT.

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KISSINGER UNQUOTE RUSH

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